

SUBCABINET ON SENIOR VITAL LIVING

Meeting Summary Notes Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Subcabinet Members

Ahluwalia, Uma
Albornoz, Gabriel
Binder, Elaine Kotell
Nelson, Rick
Nurmi, Joy

Crisostomo, Chuck
Davis, Betsy
Feinberg, Beryl
Goodwin, Bill
Heyman, Austin
Hislop, Nancy
Huggins, Gloria
Kenney, John
King, Melissa

Saddi, Odile
Smith, Charles
Vines, Ralph

Guests

Balkovich, Joanne
Marks, Leslie
Mayor, Mara
Kauffman, Charles
Woodall, Barbara

Staff

Anderson, Mary
Biggins, Carolyn
Brennan, Shawn

Co-chair Uma convened the meeting and welcomed Elaine Binder Kotell as an official member of the Subcabinet. Mr. Leggett appointed Elaine as Chair, Commission on Aging, to the Senior Subcabinet.

Summary of County Executive Operating Budget items that affect Senior Programs and Services:

Co-chair Gabe commended the budget review process that was used this year. The Budget was reviewed by clusters, which provided departments an opportunity to collectively go through reductions that would have significant impact on seniors. This resulted in giving OMB a better picture that paid dividends in the end and helped in effective planning.

Transportation:

- No reductions to Call 'N Ride or RideOn programs/services
- An increase in the amount participants pay—\$5 increase for each category in Call-n-Ride **for the 2nd book of \$60 in coupons only**
- Increase of \$15 (from \$30 to \$45) in Ride On's Monthly Pass

Dept. of Health and Human Services:

- No reductions to Senior Nutrition Program or Senior Transportation have been proposed
- There was a \$100,000 reduction in the homecare program that would result in eight fewer clients receiving services in FY12. Existing clients will have no reductions
- Jewish Social Service case management contract was eliminated (contract amount \$29,000)
- Jewish Council on Aging grant for the Senior Employment Expo reduced from \$100,000 to \$75,000
- Korean American Social Services chore service contract eliminated (contract amount \$25,000)
- Clients affected by the elimination of services can apply for the mainstream case management, or home care programs.

Department of Recreation:

- The original request for a 15% reduction was reduced to 5.5% to ensure that safety nets programs for seniors and at-risk youths were not lost
- The Maryland Senior Olympics was eliminated (amount saved \$15,000). The Senior Olympics originated out of Baltimore City and served about 3,000 seniors. Many of the seniors served were not Montgomery County residents. The focus is to fund programs that serve Montgomery County residents.
- All Senior Center and Neighborhood programs were restored for FY12

- Some programs will expand through public and private partnerships.

Office of Consumer Protection:

- No services and programs that impact seniors were reduced

Police Department:

- Three positions in the Victim Client Assistance Program abolished reducing the staff in half.
- The SRO (School Resource Officer) program eliminated
Police Stations will cut service at 2 Stations from 0100 to 0600

Office of Community Partnerships:

- There will be a reorganization of this office to include the Office of Human Rights, Commission for Women and the Regional Service Centers (RSC).
- The RSC has lost their Senior Executive Aides, 3 or 5 Program Managers and 2 Program Specialists.
- Core Staff of the RSC will be retained including Directors, 2 Program Managers, 1 Program Specialist and an Administrative Aide.

Housing:

- DHCA had no service cuts this year
- Funds for housing initiative are bond generated. The bonds are returned to the department. Developers building senior housing are not able to return the bonds so there has been a reduction in funding to senior housing.

Task Force on Hoarding Behavior (TFHB):

DHHS briefed the County Council on the work of the TFHB on Thursday, March 10. The briefing was positively received by the Council and there is an effort to add hoarding to the DSM-V as a mental health diagnosis, which would provide for reimbursement of treatment.

The Navigator—Vital Living After 50:

The Vital Living Committee created the resource guide. This is the first run, which is hoped to produce additional resources. The guide will be reproduced next year if funding is available. The guide will also be posted on line and be stocked in Public Libraries. A test of MC311 conducted last year and proved not to be helpful in navigating information. Another test will be conducted and perhaps MC311 will be added next year as a resource.

Determine potential Performance and Outcome Measures for Subcabinet-related activities and participating departments:

After a discussion of the read-ahead documents, two assignments emerged:

1. Each subgroup is asked to provide three measures to determine performance and outcome measures of the work of their committee. The due date for submission of three measures is May 15. Measures can be a combination of outputs or outcomes. Sample measures were included in one of the handouts provided as read ahead materials. If workgroups feel they need assistance in developing measures, and/or figuring out how to capture the data, Charles Smith volunteered to be a resource (workgroup leaders should contact him directly as needed). If surveys are utilized, the department/workgroup is responsible for handling data entry into an electronic format. Charles or Melissa King can provide assistance in converting electronic data into graphics.
2. Annually the Senior Subcabinet will pick one or two policy issues to focus on collectively (i.e., fall prevention or housing). All workgroups will explore how their group can address the issues to provide a collective look at the performance or outcome measure surrounding the chosen issue.

Housing Element Plan

Rick Nelson will report on the Housing Element Plan at the June meeting.

Roundtable/Announcements/Updates

Civic and Social Engagement:

The Workgroup continues to focus on life long learning and is developing relationship with AARP of Montgomery County. The group also is continuing to discuss the Village movement and exploring next steps. The need to establish a baseline of the extent of volunteerism (as a measure of ‘civic engagement’) in the County was raised. The Office of Community Partnerships/Volunteer Services was considered the likely department to have this information or research it.

Communications and Outreach:

- Continue meetings with hospitals. Hospitals are open to helping us spread word about services, possibly through their newsletters and websites.
- Continue meeting with cable operators at Asbury, etc.
- Have designed posters/signs advertising website—due to go to printing with in a few months.
- Continue to publicize current Seniors’ Today episodes with press releases.
- Chamber Meetings—one presentation scheduled in April/May. Hoping to work with COA to get them to join presentations.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, March 23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. the Office of Consumer Protection will hold an event on Senior exploitation. Valerie Ervin, County Council President will attend as well as the State Ombudsman program.
- Thursday, April 7 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. the Montgomery End of Life Coalition will hold an event to discuss EOL issues. The event will include a documentary film entitled “Consider the Conversation.” The event will be held at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring.
- Tuesday, May 17 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. the Jewish Council for the Aging will hold its annual 50+ Employment Expo at Bethesda Marriott Conference Center.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting is schedule Wednesday, June 15 at the Rockville Memorial Library, 1st Floor Conference room.

Adjournment